

LINCS WITH INDIA

Newsletter - Summer 2010



Changing children's lives in Southern India

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All the costs of design, publication and distribution of this Newsletter have been sponsored to avoid any cost to our charity.

ROGER WOODRUP

Members will be very sorry to hear of the untimely death on the 24th April of Roger Woodrup, a founder member and first Treasurer of Lincs with India aged just 63.

A Chartered Accountant in private practice in Louth, Roger's help and guidance in setting up Lincs was invaluable and he kept us on financial track until illness forced him to stand down from the position in at the AGM in August 2008 when he told the members how poorly he was. Members will recall his wry sense of humour in producing his Lincs Accounts, presenting his figures in rupees!

Roger was recognised for his voluntary work over many years, several of the Committee recalling his membership and dedicated work for Round Table as a younger man.

It was typical of Roger that he made light of the debilitating illness, which he withstood with great bravery and fortitude, attending his office and his clients' business until only a few days before he died. He will be sorely missed and our condolences have been conveyed to Roger's wife Elaine and his family.

A PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

by Brian Harrison

“Everyone deserves a pat on the back!”

At the risk of duplicating Chairman Grant’s letter, which appears elsewhere in this Newsletter; I should especially like to thank our members (whose generosity in response to our appeals for help never ceases to amaze me) for their continued support. Our major project so far, the girls’ hostel, was opened with due pomp and ceremony in January during my visit with a group of supporters and fellow Executive Committee Members. The building (named ‘Rotary House’) will soon accommodate our existing sponsored girls and a few more. Everyone deserves a pat on the back.

Leicester students do it again! So very many people have contributed to the venture through fundraising activity, the ‘buy a brick’ appeal, Rotary Clubs’ and individual donations. Remember, Sarah Keracher from



Lincoln, whose Leicester University friends had a beer festival and gave our appeal a ‘kick-start’ with a fantastic donation of almost £2,000. Well, they have been at it again and it was entirely fitting that it was the news that a

further donation of around £1,300 we are to receive from the proceeds of this year’s event would take our efforts over the finishing line. As we said last year ‘Very many thanks Sarah and to all your fellow RAG volunteers’.

In between the students fundraising there have been very many donations from



Brian with Ignatius

individual members, particularly in response to the ‘buy a brick’ appeal (many thousands were bought). The appeal in the message at Christmas alone brought in some £2,500 in January – those imploring eyes of the little sponsored tribal girl on the mantelpiece must have been simply irresistible!



I know I must be careful not to single out individual members but, sadly, we lost a long standing one early in the New Year. His family, knowing of his interest in our work, made an extensive donation of household effects which, through our local Rotary Club auction has turned into significant funds for our projects. Money has also come in steadily from all manner of sources, talks and lunches, fundraising events of all kinds, and from Rotary Clubs with whom several of our members have connections.

A special mention of John Roddam.

Among his achievements for us, John Roddam, in charge of our fundraising for several years, secured substantial contributions to the girls’ hostel project from the Rotary Club of Lincoln Colonia and their twin club in

Holland. We have recognised these significant contributions by naming one of the two dormitories 'Colonia' and the other 'Twente-Zuid'. Once we were in sight of the finishing post, John stood down from the Committee and we are all very grateful to him, and to Irene, for everything they have done for Lincs with India over the years.

Tough conditions. The recession and a poor monsoon has hit Ignatius and his charity, SDET very hard. ICT, the other UK charity funders of some of his projects that you will have heard of, have not been able to maintain the same level of support as earlier. To compound the effects of this, there is significant inflation in India especially as regards food. The cost of maintaining the children in the hostels has inevitably increased and our members, who, had been paying £10. per month on standing orders for up to ten years through Lincs with India, have kindly now increased their monthly payments to £12.50.

We were also very disappointed to find that ICT's difficulties had led to Ignatius having

to scale back significantly his Special Schools scheme and (although for other reasons) the tribal village pre-school 'Balwadis'.

Membership subscriptions. At home, the Committee has agonised over our membership subscriptions which we set at just £5. a year when we started 13 years ago. This very modest subscription level was set with the clear aim of not excluding anyone from membership of our charity who shared our wish to help some of the very poorest people in the world. Reluctantly we have decided to increase the subscription to £10. for renewals taking effect from April 2010 but we still have the same aim and objective of not excluding anyone, whatever subscription is paid. These subscriptions, which are often supplemented by a donation, are extremely important in enabling us to plan Lincs with India financial budgeting. So I expect Kath Hayes will be chasing us all very soon!

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM at Alford Cricket Club in July.

•• AGM returns to Alford Cricket Club ••

The Executive Committee has appointed the **twelfth Annual General Meeting** of the members of Lincs with India to take place on Friday, 9th July 2010 (7.00 p.m for 7.30p.m. start) at Alford & District Cricket Club's Pavilion at Train Fen Holt, Well near Alford.

Proceedings of the meeting:

1. To appoint a Chairman of the meeting;
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last General Meeting and to deal with any matters arising;
3. To receive the Reports of the Executive Committee including the Financial Statements for the previous year;
4. To appoint the Honorary Officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing year;
5. Any other business appropriate to an AGM.

Supper will immediately follow the AGM and President Brian will make a topical presentation.

Apologies/intention to attend please to Hon. Sec. Marjorie Barr at Fieldside House, Gayton le Marsh, ALFORD, Lincs LN13 0NW. Tel: 01507 451794. Email: marjorie@lincswithindia.org.uk.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION (FOR SOME)

A landmark law which makes education a fundamental right for children has come into effect in India. It is now legally enforceable (for those who have access to the law!) for every child to demand free and elementary education between the ages of six and 14 years.

Indian PM Manmohan Singh has said that the government was committed “to ensuring that all children irrespective of gender and social category have access to education”.

But, with an estimated eight million children aged between six and 14 not currently attending school, we are not expecting to be able to wind up Lincs with India any time soon!

Mr Singh, an economist, is reported to have said, recalling his own childhood **“I read under the dim light of a kerosene lamp. I am what I am totally because of education. So I want that the light of education should reach to all”.**
Hear, hear to that Mr. Singh.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INDIA?

The annual trips to the projects are indispensable in terms of our monitoring of the work of our Indian charity partner, SDET. We see, learn and understand so much more than we can glean from our constant e-mail contact with Ignatius. As you will have gathered from our ‘diarists’ over the years it really is a great holiday adventure! So, why not come along to the AGM in July and talk to any of the Committee members about it.

SPONSORSHIP AFFAIRS

Currently, there are 51 boys and 34 girls in the sponsorship scheme at Stedland. Ignatius has notified us of details of two or three girls from the tribal villages about to join the scheme. However, when the new accommodation is ready shortly, Ignatius hopes to increase the number of supported girls to 50 altogether.

Although we have a few prospective sponsors waiting for more children to be brought into the scheme there will soon be the opportunity for more and we shall be pleased to hear from any of our members who would like more information about becoming a sponsor. Just get in touch with me, or Marjorie (our contact details are below) for more information.

There has been significant cost of living inflation in India in the last year or two; especially in relation to food, and rice in particular. The sponsorship contribution, set at £10.00 per month some twelve years ago to maintain, feed, clothe and provide medical care for the children at the hostel so that they can attend school, has recently been increased to £12.50 per month.

Thank you sponsors; we hope you will be able to continue to support these terribly disadvantaged children. The opportunities the scheme provides are truly life changing.

Have you thought about a holiday in India with other members so that you can see for yourself?

Contact Maggie Allan (01507) 462384

Email: maggie@lincswithindia.org.uk

or Marjorie Barr (01507) 451794

Email: marjorie@lincswithindia.org.uk

THE 2010 TRIP TO THE PROJECTS

– OPENING THE GIRLS' HOSTEL

by Kath Hayes

Just two days to go and the site at Sdetland was a hive of frantic activity to get the girls' hostel building ready for the grand opening on Sunday.

[Friday] The site at Sdetland was a hive of frantic activity to get the girls' hostel building ready for the grand opening on Sunday, just two days away. We knew this was not going to be finished ready for occupation by the girls for several months but, externally, the hostel building was presented as virtually completed. It was at various 'finishing off' stages. Some walls were being plastered. Many building workers were women, some still mixing mortar while, outside, painters were giving the external rendered walls a coat of white paint from rickety scaffolding (no Health & Safety Executive here!).

[The villages] We were met from the bus by the women of the village and presented with garlands of flowers and a dab of paint on the forehead to represent friendship. Children crowded round us wanting us to take pictures and looking and touching us.

The local schools were next on our itinerary where the children were excited to see us and we were greeted by a surreptitious wave and smile by some of them taking lessons sitting

on the floor outside in the open air. Some of the older children had desks in the classrooms but mostly the children sat on the floor in front of a blackboard. The smaller ones gave us a great rendition of a nursery rhyme which I could not, unfortunately, recognize!

They were extremely well behaved and pleasant and we met four of the older children from the hostel who were doing very well in their studies and at the top end of their class. One, we gathered, was their star pupil!

I was introduced to my little 'urchin' – who just had to be the most mischievous child in the school, together with his handsome brother and very pretty sister.

[Medical Centre] Next stop was the local first aid medical centre managed by the nurse, the local doctor visiting once a week or as and when required (all paid for by sponsors of Lincs with India). The nurse was clearly very grateful to receive our bags of medical supplies to supplement the Centre's meager supplies which my niece, Sheila, had been given back in England to bring over.

[More villages] Mums with babies dressed in their best finery appeared by magic to meet us. The people are so wonderful here and I am now thoroughly enjoying India, especially the rural areas.





Opening the girls' hostel. Seven days into our trip and Sunday is to be the highlight of our visit – another visit to Sdetland; this time to open the hostel, which looked an absolute picture completely painted in white. Flowers, branches, and colourful bunting and flags adorned the building.

I remarked to one of the teachers that they must have worked all day and night to get the hostel looking like this in the time since Friday. He gave me a wry look back!

The hostel was opened with a little ceremony! Brian (as the most important person there) had to arrange some fruit. Everyone, including the teachers and building workers, were all given a cup of milk which, in turn, poured into pot standing over a fire ready to be lit. The ladies then lit the fire and when the milk boiled there was much wailing, clapping and cheering. Each adult in the party was given a sweetened drink of milk and the children were given sweets.

Ruth cut the first ribbon to one of the dormitories, followed by Sheila, Liz, Brian and myself and finally Jim cut the ribbon to what will be the girls bathroom. The curtain was duly pulled back and the building declared open.

We were led by the hands of children across the playing field to the roof of the boys' hostel. This area, covered by woven palm

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MONSOON RAINS.

Emerging from a 'proper' British winter it might be hard to recall that we have had some experience of drought from time to time, leading to restrictions on the use of water. Hosepipe bans are one thing. But in other parts of the world the consequences of drought are truly grim.

Mercifully, we did not see any reports of there being threat to life in consequence of the drought in India last year. But, in other ways the situation was described as grim in terms of crop sowing and meagre harvest, animal health and, for the people, providing drinking water, livelihood and food, particularly for the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers.

Up to 70% of Indians are dependent on farm incomes, and about 60% of India's farms depend on monsoon rains – rather than managed water irrigation networks. The summer rains are crucial to crops such as rice, soybean, sugarcane and cotton.

India had to import food to make up for shortages caused by the 2009 drought (thought affect 700 million people in half the country, including the area of Tamil Nadu where Lincs with India is involved with its projects to help the displaced tribal and poor peoples. Food prices rose by some 10%

Geoff Allen



leaves, is used by the children to sleep in the height of the summer. For our entertainment, it had been decorated with garlands and a table set for us.

After formal speeches (during which my 'urchin' slept) we were treated to lunch of rice, a medium hot curry, lots of bananas, bread and jam. The children ate in four rows on mats on the floor – 2 rows of boys and two rows of girls – from banana leaves. After lunch, the leaves were collected up, the mats stacked away and the floor swept ready for a cultural show put on by the children. Opening with a little dance by a few from the Special School pupils, the hostel then children put on an obviously well-practiced show of dancing, stick 'bashing', and yoga

Afterwards we were encouraged to 'come out and play'. At some juncture, Jim suggested a conga round the field and I duly obliged. Only the English could be so daft as to lead a crocodile of children round a field in the height of the noon-day sun! And then songs, many songs.

The children were very affectionate, they would push against one another to hold your hand, sneak under your arm or the older girls examine your nail varnish!



We had spent a few magical hours during which we had stepped back into our own childhood and played games with the children in their still wonderfully simple world. What an absolutely delightful and life-changing day. With regret we had to leave but with joyous hearts we climbed back on the bus to return to Madurai

[Ed. The diarists on this year's trip to the projects were our Membership Secretary, Kath Hayes and Jim Needley. For the full version visit the website www.lincswithindia.org.uk]



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The girls hostel - mission accomplished!

Remember the 2008 Summer Newsletter - when we broke the news that, after the loss of rented property, our 25 supported girls were being accommodated, with their house-mother, in a single room built as a storeroom at Stedland? This brought about the launch of our appeal to fund the building of a hostel for the girls to mirror the project we had carried out for the boys. The difference was the girls' hostel needed to be quite a bit bigger and would be more than twice the cost – a budget we anticipated of up to some £30,000.

Well, we are delighted to report that our ambitious project is all but completed. It was an extraordinary effort (a two or three year project condensed into a year) to meet a real crisis. The January 2009 visitors witnessed the ritual laying of the foundation stone and it was hoped that our President, Brian's travelling party exactly a year later would see the building fully occupied and in use. This was not quite possible but the building work was practically completed and elsewhere in this Newsletter you will hear about the opening ceremony. And, by the time you read this the girls will certainly be occupying their new dormitories with simple bathroom facilities of a standard they will never have seen before.

Challenging times – and a drought!

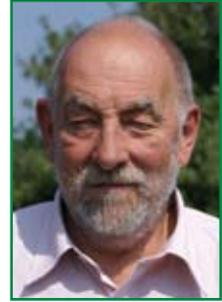
Undeniably, the last year or so have been challenging times all round!

Here, in Lincolnshire, in perhaps the worst financially depressed conditions since the 1920s, raising almost £30,000 in little more

than a year substantially in small donations, has certainly been tough. But, in the remote and poor area of the tribal peoples in southern India (where we are helping some very exceptionally disadvantaged children) the project has been hit by natural catastrophe. A drought in the summer has caused the Stedland community water supply (a borehole on site) to dry up.

Robert gets us through. At our latest management committee on the 12th April our Treasurer, Robert Haynes of Louth, gave us the most welcome news of the financial target to complete the building of the hostel having, for all practical purposes, been achieved. I expect there will be some 'extras' to pay for but it was a great relief to know that we are finally over the finishing line.

The Charity's Accounts and Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2010 will accompany this Newsletter and will be presented at the forthcoming AGM. Once again, members are entitled to know that we are greatly indebted to Robert. In the event, he has virtually single-handedly financially 'project managed' the scheme many thousand of miles away through to a very satisfactory conclusion. And, wearing his Treasurer's hat, he has had to balance our books.



It should be borne in mind that some of the hostel project receipts and payments are accounted for in the previous year's, the 2009 Accounts, most in the Accounts to 31st March 2010 and some in the current year's books. Taken together, these are extraordinary figures for a small charity, wholly managed by volunteers. The entire committee and the vast majority of our members support lots of other worthy charities and are involved in all manner of volunteer work. So, this makes the achievement all the more remarkable.

Speaking of books; did you know that 'Brian's bookstall' managed under the flag of the Rotary Club of Alford + Mablethorpe has produced over a thousand pounds each year for very many years, latterly for Lincs with India? We are approaching the book stall season again – mid July to the end of August and Brian can always use a new supply of books, paperbacks especially - we can sell them but we do need the stock. Can you help? Give him a call (01507 490326 or email him at brian@lincswithindia.org.uk)

So much of what I write seems to concern money. However, the capital projects of the last three years to provide the children with decent accommodation have been exceptional. The cost of the day to day needs of the children remain very modest and the end result, knowing that we making such a difference and providing a few greatly disadvantaged children with real opportunity is so satisfying.

The AGM will shortly be upon us. Please try to attend. Your committee have worked very hard this year and would welcome your support at the only members' meeting of the year. You will be among like-minded people. Bring a friend, the more the merrier. Members are the life blood of Lincs with India'; there are some 300 + of you but room for many more. See you there.

Grant Allan
Grant@lincswithindia.org.uk

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Current membership stands at 320, a gain of 38 new members in the year.

Actually, since we are now counting couples as single members, we have rather more than 320 members. However, a few members have overlooked to send their 2009/10 subs but I know who you are! A donation with your subscription for this year 2010/11 will do just fine!

Finally, two reminders: please include your email addresses so that we will be able to communicate with you electronically should the need arise; and, don't forget to sign the gift aid certificate so that we can ask Her Majesty's Revenue + Customs to send us the Tax you have paid on your charitable donations to Lincs with India.

Thank you for your continued support; we could not do what we do without you.

Kath Hayes, Membership Secretary

BANUPRIYA, PONMALAR, VELANKANNI (AND PANDIARAJAN)

Distinguishing the scheme we support involving tribal children from a very remote area being brought to hostel accommodation to attend school, the International Childrens' Trust promotes another scheme also managed by Ignatius (SDET) involving the families of underprivileged children in the village area near 'Stedland' focused on providing financial support for the families provided the children attend school. The scheme addresses 'child labour' concerns.

Originally, Lincs with India undertook the sponsorship of 9 children in the ICT Home Sponsorship Scheme. Most of them have now worked through their basic education and, at present, only three remain in this scheme:



Banupriya, who at 13 is the youngest, lives with her widowed mother and brother in Valayapatti (which is quite close to

Sdetland). She is now in the 9th Standard at the Government Higher Secondary School at Krishnankovil. In her most recent letter Banupriya reports enthusiastically about the annual ICT Educational Tour which was to the old British Hill Station of Ooty. She ends her translated letter "I request you to come and meet me while you are in this area". How could we refuse – I was able to see Banupriya at Sdetland in January.



Ponmalar, 16, is in her final year at the Higher Secondary School. She lives with her family in a Government 'colony house' in

Samathuvapuram. Her father became blind some years ago leaving her illiterate mother as the principal breadwinner. When I saw Ponmalar at Sdetland in January she told me that she still wishes to go on to further education with a view to becoming a teacher. Lets hope she can - it will all depend on how well she does in the 12th Standard examinations.



Velankanni is also 16. From a christian family she attends the Sacred Heart Secondary School for Girls but, having recently been in

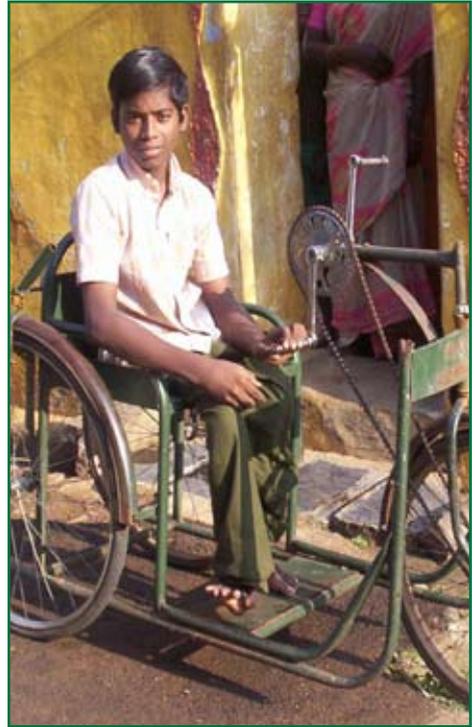
quite poor health, she is not doing particularly well. Velankanni's family have experienced a series of misfortunes over the years which we have tried to help with and, happily, when I saw the whole family in January matters had significantly improved. Father is in regular employment, mother is coping well despite her disability (she lost her left arm whilst working on a building site whilst her husband was incarcerated) and the whole family seem well settled in the small house that we were able to provide for them. We shall continue to watch over this family.

I have known these children for several years and it was a pleasure to be able to invite them to join the celebrations marking the opening of the new Girl's Hostel.

They obviously all enjoyed the day and being given sufficient Rupees to adequately cover the cost of attending.

Remember **Pandiarajan** - the wheel chair bound polio victim? We continue to help Pandiarajan, although we do this directly now rather than through the ICT Scheme. This young man, so disabled from polio as a child, is now studying for an Electronic Communication Engineering Degree at the Dindigul campus of the Anna University of Tiruchchirappalli. He is coping well with both his studies and his disability – makes it all worthwhile doesn't it? Lincs with India hopes to be able to continue to support Pandiarajan through his four years of study

Brian Harrison



CHECKING THE STATISTICS

You know how hung up some of us get when our politicians talk about introducing ID cards. Well, you may have read India is launching a new census in which every person aged over 15 will be photographed and fingerprinted to create a biometric national database. The government will then use the information to issue identity cards. I wonder if they will find and include our tribal families and, if they do, what our people will do with their cards when they get them – they will not have anywhere to put them.

The population of India is about 1.2 billion. Over the next year, some 2.5 million of them will be appointed census officials to visit households in more than 7,000 towns and 600,000 villages. The officials, many of them teachers will first begin the process of house listing - which records information on homes. This count will, apparently, attempt to gather information on the use of the internet and the availability of drinking water and toilets in households. Um – that will be quite a range of amenities then!

Geoff Allen

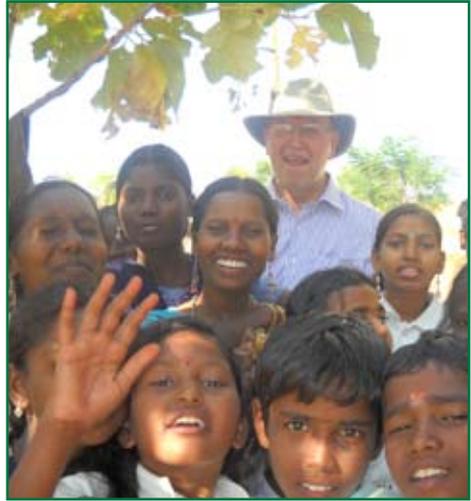
INDIA 2010

India is a magical country of contrasts; cultures and languages. Our visit this year came up to all the expectations of never presuming anything - as you must also expect the unexpected!



I should have known that the cricket set I had bought for the boys at Stedland would not be intact when it arrived in India; the ball, bails and wickets arrived - but no sign of the bat. *[Ed. Um, the set probably started its original journey in India]* But, there was no problem a replacement in Trivandrum; cricket is an institution in India *[Ed. top of the world rankings, too]*

The hotels we selected gave variety and amusement. One thing you quickly learn is patience - this was particularly so when we stayed at Shilpa Gardens at Kilimanoor. Since we had stayed there previously we expected the hotel to have food - no such luck, but they were kind enough to send out for takeaways of fried rice and noodles! *[Ed. sounds good to me. We once had a diet of boiled rice and fish-heads served delicately on a banana leaf – with our own tracker bars for pudding].* An effective Health and Safety Policy ensured guests were not scolded as cold water for showers was available morning and evening without any extra charge. £5 a day too! *[Ed that's inflation]*



We spent a day on a rice boat on the Kerala backwaters. Paul Merton had been on the same boat filming a documentary recently and had left the crew with some happy memories. We transferred to a punt to go round the villages and to be entertained by our 'young captain' who had a great sense of humour, with excellent English learned from his girl friend who, he regretted, had left him (and India) to marry David Beckham! *[Ed. never could trust those 'spice girls']*

As always, my room-mate Brian kept us amused with his anecdotes of days gone by and by. Our bus driver was Vijay Kumar so we were always guaranteed to get there, eventually. Pity the Icelandic volcano did not keep the 'planes grounded in January, another month in the sub-continent would have been good!

Jim Needley

PS Did you know why Brian always sleeps furthest away from the window – it's to make sure the mosquitoes get Bryn first!

WATER CRISIS AT STEDLAND

We constantly complain about the weather in a matter of fact kind of way – it’s a national characteristic. Thank goodness, of course, as inconvenient as we find bad weather it is hardly life changing, let alone life-threatening. But when we heard last summer from Ignatius that it had been a poor monsoon we knew this was not good.

A drought ensued. Ignatius had to bring in water by tanker to Stedland for the children and for the girls’ hostel builders – who needed great quantities. But, we had no idea how serious this was until Brian and his party returned from their trip to the projects in January.

Stedland’s water supply is from a borehole

on site. It has dried up. This is thought to be a direct result of the drought. It has been rebored but there is no water there. Just a few days ago we heard Ignatius has brought in experts (water diviners) to find a fresh source on the site and, not without some concern, we await news. We anticipate it will be necessary to sink a much deeper borehole but, of course, there still needs to be an underground source to get into.

All this costs money, Ignatius’ charity can ill-afford. The estimates range up to around £700 in our money (a huge amount out there) but we are happy to report that £500 of this has been funded in the form of a humanitarian grant from the local Rotary District with the balance from the Alford & Mablethorpe Rotary Club. We will post up more news on the website.

From Peter Manton

Sir, It hardly seems possible that two years have passed since Audrey and I were in India, opening the hostel to accommodate the boys at Stedland. The memories remain as vivid today as they were on our return when I decided to include Lincs with India as one of the local charities I would support and promote in my year as Governor of the 49 Rotary Clubs in the District.

We had no idea at that time of the developing crisis which led to the supported girls being displaced from the rented hostel accommodation they were in to hopelessly inadequate accommodation in a storeroom at Stedland.

But, the response from Lincs with India with the financing of a second and much larger hostel for the girls is, as they say, history!

As a Rotarian, and as a member of Lincs with India, I should like to say how pleased and proud I am of what has been achieved in such a short time. I understand that the funding, some £30,000,

has come from significant donations from Rotary Clubs in the area but at least in equal measure from Lincs with India fundraising activities and members donations. For all of this I should like to offer my congratulations to everyone concerned.

How nice it would be if I could finish on this happy note. But, one thing after another calls for attention and the news of the latest crisis brought back by the January 2010 visitors regarding the failure of the water borewell at Stedland has been especially worrying. However, the Rotary District has access to funds for this kind of humanitarian crisis and, wearing my District Governor’s hat, I was very pleased to sanction the grant of funds to meet most of the cost of reboring the well and of sinking a new one - Rotary Club of Alford & Mablethorpe finishing the balance.

Yours etc

Peter Manton, District Governor, Rotary District 1270

THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS

In early 2005 our Indian partners, the Social Development and Educational Trust, established a school for the benefit of children who were either physically disabled or mentally impaired, or both (children we describe, with political correctness, as having 'special needs'). SDET worked closely with the Spastic Society of India and the project was so successful that they were soon able to open a second unit and care for a total of 54 children. As you can imagine, in a country (however quickly developing) with little or no free social care, this project was of immense benefit to both the children and (through respite) their parents.



The costs of running this project were principally found by another UK Charity although Lincs with India have assisted by funding the cost of transporting the children from and to their homes and providing some remedial and educational equipment.

Recently we were very sorry to learn that funding for the project had run out. SDET reduced the number of children receiving help to 16 and Lincs with India pledged support for this number until at least the end of June 2010, when it is hoped that the originally sourced funds will be reinstated.





The special needs children entertaining the 2010 visitors at Stedland

Christmas Cards

Christmas seems a long time ago and we are now a quarter of the way through another year! However, many Lincs with India supporters will remember that last year we sold a specially designed Christmas card to raise money for the charity.

I am pleased to be able to report that we sold around 3,300 Christmas cards which made a profit of just over £800 for Lincs with India. Thank you for supporting this.

We still have about 500 cards left in stock and as these are not year specific we will try and sell them for Christmas 2010.

John Rowland

